

What others say...

Coast Guard praised for heroism

To the editor:

"Greater love hath no man than he who lays his life on the line to save a perishing fellow being."

I was choked with emotion and tears stung my eyes as I read the account of that heroic Coast Guard helicopter crew under the command of Lt. Cmdr. John Whiddon, pilot of the aircraft rescuing a fisherman and his 6-year-old son, from a practically submerged fishing boat.

It was black dark, with a 70-knot gale and 25 to 30 foot seas.

Only a combination of these highly trained men's grim determination and divine intervention saved this father and son from sure death in the icy waters of the Gulf of Alaska.

There is a fine bond of mutual admiration and respect between the seafaring people and the dedicated professionals that man these rescue units in both Coast Guard surface and

aircraft.

Whenever there is a life-threatening emergency, all the VHF radios stay on the emergency frequency, and the U.S. Coast Guard takes command in issuing orders to civilian and military personnel to coordinate the rescue effort until the emergency is over.

The short fish quotas and the terrible financial problems that fishermen work with cause people to work under weather conditions that are extremely dangerous and bordering on suicidal.

The terrible losses of both boats and personnel in the last few years has caused insurance companies to price themselves out of the market.

So our motto is: "Trust in the Good Lord, the U.S. Coast Guard, and keep a survival suit handy."

Sincerely
All Brookamn Sr.
Sitka

Forest Service plans open house

Dear Citizen:

The Forest Service will be holding an open house on the Tongass Land Management Plan Revision at the Chugach National Forest Supervisor's Office Conference Room, 201 E. Ninth Ave., in Anchorage on Jan. 7 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. I want to personally invite you to attend the open house.

At the open house, we will outline steps for revising the Tongass Land Management Plan, present the preliminary issues that may be addressed by the revision, discuss your issues and explain how the revised forest plan may differ from the existing Tongass plan. You will be provided an opportunity to ask questions about the revision and are encouraged to provide written comment about how you would like the Tongass to be managed. Comment can be turned in at the meeting or you can mail comments to: Tongass Review, Forest Plan Interdisciplinary Team, 8465 Old Dairy Road, Juneau 99801. Written comment must be received in our office by Feb. 15, 1988.

The Tongass National Forest is the largest in the National Forest System and is located in Southeast Alaska. The Tongass Land Management Plan was the first national forest plan developed following the National Forest Manage-

ment Act of 1976 and has guided management on the Tongass since 1979. To ensure that the forest plan continues to be responsive to citizens' concerns, the National Forest Management Act requires that forest plans be revised every 10 to 15 years. Revision of the Tongass Land Management Plan is intended to reflect the recent changes that have taken place in Southeast Alaska: changes in public values, changes in market conditions and changes in knowledge about forest management activities and resources.

An interdisciplinary team representing all resources on the Tongass National Forest has been assigned the task of drafting an environmental impact statement and draft forest plan by December 1989. When completed, the revised forest plan will guide future management of the Tongass including such decisions as where and how much timber should be harvested, which recreational developments should occur, and what resources should be given special consideration.

I encourage you to attend the open house Jan. 7 and look forward to discussing your concerns.

Sincerely
Donald C. Lyon
Forest Plan Revision Team Leader
Juneau